



Biomass Program

Integrated Biorefineries R&D

Black Belt Bioenergy Demonstration Project

This Congressionally-mandated project will create a comprehensive project book for promoting investment in and construction of a demonstration fuel grade ethanol production facility in the Black Belt region of Alabama. Objectives are to:

- Develop a transportation biofuel market in the Gulf Coast region of the U.S. to facilitate financial investment.
- Identify incentives to local producers to encourage production, improve feedstock supply infrastructure and decrease cost of feedstock.
- Integrate research and commercialization by utilizing a commercial scale plant as demonstration test bed.
- Encourage private investment by demonstrating effective risk mitigation strategies.

A market-pull strategy will be employed to encourage plant investment. The agricultural production of switch grass/coastal hay will be promoted as a market strategy for mitigating feedstock supply risk and lowering production cost. Effective risk management strategies will be employed to reduce higher return requirements.

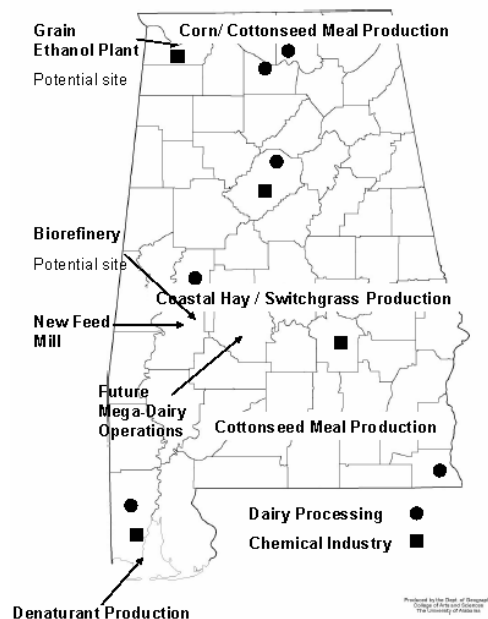
R&D Pathway

Analytic tasks will include performing an agricultural resource analysis for the region, market

analysis, site analysis, energy and infrastructure analysis, technology assessment, and an economic impact study. These will assess feedstock, technological risk, economic development requirements, and other infrastructure questions.

Additional tasks will focus on other aspects of plant construction, such as engineering and design contracts, permitting issues, and a financial strategy for plant investment.

Community issues such as workforce development, outreach, and benefits to the public will be included in the latter stages of the project.



Alabama integrated biorefinery industry development

Benefits

- Promote the expansion of the U.S. ethanol market
- The development of risk mitigation strategies will encourage private investment in the biorefinery industry
- Project book will serve as a model investment analysis tool to support outreach to the financial community

Applications

A viable ethanol market in the Black Belt region of Alabama would enhance the economic development of the region.

Project Participants

Team Systems International

Project Period

FY 2002 – FY 2005

For more information contact:

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Visit the Web site for the Office of the Biomass Program (OBP) at
www.eere.energy.gov/biomass.html

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